

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /066 W

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P R 260832Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2380

USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN BASC

REFS: (A) USBER 1730; (B) USBER 1585

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE BASC CONTROLLER RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY OF AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE FLAW OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO USG: ALLIED-SOVIET PROBLEMS IN BASC COULD TAKE ON MORE OF A US-SOVIET BILATERAL CHARACTER. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, DIFFICULTIES ARE HANDLED IN BASC BETWEEN SOVIETS AND ALLIED CONTROLLER OF CORRIDOR USED BY FLIGHT IN QUESTION NO MATTER WHAT THE FLAG OF THE ALLIED AIRCRAFT. SUCH DISPUTES THUS ARE NOT NECESSARILY ALONG NATIONAL LINES AND ALLIED UNITY IS EASY TO MAINTAIN.

2. IT WOULD SEEM THAT DIVISION OF CONTROLLER RESPONSIBILITIES ON NATIONAL LINES COULD GIVE SOVIETS HANDLE TO EXPLOIT ANY ALLIED DIFFERENCES AND, GIVEN
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MAJOR US ROLE IN IGS, TEND TO RESULT IN WHAT COULD

APPEAR TO BE BILATERAL US-USSR ISSUES. IF BA SHOULD REDUCE IGS PARTICIPATION TO AF LEVEL, AS SEEMED A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY ONLY MONTHS AGO, THE BILATERAL US-USSR CASTE OF PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH IGS FLIGHTS WOULD EVEN BE GREATER. FINALLY, WE CANNOT EXPECT THAT FRENCH OR BRITISH BERLIN AIR INTERESTS WILL ALWAYS BE PARALLEL WITH OURS (E.G., BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS). WE SHOULD NOT GIVE UP TOO QUICKLY OR EASILY ANY MECHANISM WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO A TRIPARTISM WHICH GENERALLY SERVES OUR INTERESTS.

3. RECOMMENDATION. IF IT CAN BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THAT FRENCH WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO EFFICIENTLY PROVIDE TEGEL FLIGHT DATA TO BASC, AND THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE, EMBASSY BELIEVES US EFFORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OBTAINING ANGLO-FRENCH TRADEOFF OF NORTH CORRIDOR FOR ADDITIONAL TEGEL-BASC LINES. IN THIS CONNECTION WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE USBER REPORT (PARA 5, REF B) OF APPARENT UK READINESS TO GIVE NORTH CORRIDOR TO FRENCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, BERLIN AIR ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN13857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750294-0751
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750815/aaaaampy.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 1730, 75 USBERLIN 1585
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN BASC
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, US, UK, FR, UR
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006